

Abstract

A target nucleic acid having a target sequence in a sample is detected according to the steps of: (a) mixing a first probe including a nucleic acid which has a specific region having a sequence complementary to the target sequence and a nonspecific region having a sequence that is not complementary to the target sequence of the target nucleic acid; a second probe including a nucleic acid which has a first region that is complementary to at least a portion of the nonspecific region of the first probe, a loop region that does not have a sequence complementary to the first probe, and a second region that is complementary to at least a portion of the specific region of the first probe, the loop region being capable of forming a loop when it is annealed with the first probe, wherein the nucleic acid is labeled with a labeling material generating a signal by which formation of the aforementioned loop can be detected; and a sample under conditions in which the first probe and the second probe are annealed and the first probe and the target nucleic acid are annealed; and (b) detecting a signal of the labeling material.